



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY293955

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	04/03/2005
Inspector Name	Mark Evans

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Little Fish Preschool
Setting Address	Methodist Church Hall Battersbee Road Leicester Leicestershire LE3 9LD

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The partnership of Little Fish Preschool
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Little Fish Preschool
Address	17 Garland Crescent Leicester Leicestershire LE3 9BN

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

Information about the setting

Little Fish Pre-school was established in September 2004. It is a privately run group situated within a church hall in the New Parks area of Leicester. The preschool is open in term time between the hours of 09:15 and 11:45 and the hours are extended until 13:00 for children attending the lunch club. Children are accommodated in one large hall, although have access to a smaller group room and toilet/wash areas. There is an outdoor play area for children's physical play and activities.

The preschool is registered to care for up to 26 children from 2 to under 5 years of age. At present there are 32 children on roll. The setting is also registered to receive nursery education funding for 3 and 4-year-olds. The pre-school currently supports children with special needs and those for whom English is an additional language.

Four members of staff work with children, three of whom have recognised Preschool Learning Alliance (PLA) Diploma qualifications. There are also additional relief staff and some parents helping on a voluntary basis. The setting is a member of the PLA and receives support from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership through visits from a qualified teacher.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Fish Pre-school provides good care for children. The environment is welcoming; the premises are maintained appropriately and there are good resources for children's care and play. There are satisfactory procedures for staff recruitment, although some arrangements for vetting relief staff are not fully comprehensive. There are very good staffing ratios providing supportive adult care for children. Documentation is up-to-date and well organised.

Written risk assessments establish arrangements to reduce the risk of any hazards and most aspects of safety are in place. The setting provides drinks and snacks for children that promote healthy eating and good nutrition. There is a child protection policy and staff were judged to have good knowledge of child protection issues and procedures. Children are encouraged to use good hygiene practices, for example, to wash hands after toileting and before eating and there are sound arrangements to prevent cross-infection.

The staff have positive caring relationships with the children and they encourage co-operative attitudes. Adults within the setting are caring and attentive to the

children. They show interest in and value what they say and do. Staff praise the children and manage behaviour effectively. Children have equal access to equipment and there are some resources and activities that enhance children's interest and knowledge of diversity. The setting provides support for children with special needs and liaises closely with parents and relevant agencies.

The setting has a positive approach towards working with parents and staff are welcoming and approachable. There are notices and information documents made available to parents to keep them informed. Periodic meetings with key staff enable parents to discuss their child's progress and development. Confidential records are kept in order to have relevant contact details, to meet the individual care needs and to monitor children's development.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The staff are caring and attentive to the children and use praise and encouragement, which gives children a sense of security and helps their self esteem and developing confidence.
- The setting has a positive approach to working in partnership with parents; they provide good written and verbal information to keep parents informed and have periodic meetings with them to discuss their child's progress.
- Documentation and records are well organised and informative.

What needs to be improved?

- vetting procedures for relief staff
- security of the premises

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

Outcome of the inspection

Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.

As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
1	Ensure that all relief staff have made application to Ofsted to undergo vetting procedures.
6	Make sure that premises are secure with regard to entrance area and that children are unable to leave them unsupervised.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.